

**United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

WS Directive 2.435 10/10/97

EXPLOSIVES USE AND SAFETY

1. PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for WS use of explosives and training requirements for explosives certification.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive replaces WS Directive 2.435 dated 9/17/96.

3. BACKGROUND

Explosives are an efficient, cost-effective means for removing beaver dams that are causing property damage.

A WS Explosives safety Committee composed of qualified WS personnel was established by the WS Deputy Administrator. The committee is responsible for conducting explosives certification training and updating training criteria and requirements. All training requirements and operating procedures are approved by the WS Deputy Administrator before implementation.

4. POLICY

Only explosive materials listed in the WS Explosives Safety Manual are authorized for use in the WS program.

Explosive specialists are not authorized to use, handle, or dispose of explosives belonging to other parties or to obtain explosive materials from sources other than licensed distributors or manufacturers.

WS employees must receive explosives training and be certified by WS before using explosives on any official projects.

The WS explosives certification process will require:

- a. State Directors to nominate candidates under their supervision for explosives training.
- b. A minimum of 24 hours instruction on the safe use of approved explosive components and their application in WS field operations.
- c. Candidates to demonstrate safe and proficient use of initiation systems and other components approved for use.

State Directors are responsible for ensuring that record keeping and inventory requirements are met in accordance with WS Explosives Manual guidelines. These requirements include biyearly physical inventories of all explosives on hand and recorded on WS Form 22, Explosives Inventory Record. These physical records will be reviewed and signed by the State Director or his designee to certify accuracy.


All WS use, storage, and transportation of explosives will be in strict compliance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations and with procedures outlined in the WS Explosives Safety Manual and in Occupational Safety and Health Administration Standard 1910.109, Explosives and Blasting Agents.

Only after satisfying all WS training requirements, and upon recommendation of the WS Explosives Safety Committee, will candidates be eligible for certification. The Committee will recommend to the appropriate Director the candidates eligible for certification or those certifications that should be denied or revoked.

A minimum of 8 hours of approved explosives refresher training are required every 2 years to maintain WS certification. Certified employees who do not meet this requirement will be placed in inactive reserve status in which their certification may be renewed within 5 years of its expiration by completing an 8-hour refresher course.

5. REFERENCES

- WS Explosives Safety Manual
- 29 CFR Part 1910.109 Explosives and Blasting Agents
- 27 CFR Part 55 -Commerce in Explosives
 - Subpart D -Licenses and Permits
 - Subpart G -Records and Reports
 - Section 55.126 -Explosives Transaction Record
 - Section 55.127 -Daily Summary of Magazine Transactions,
 - Subpart K -Storage
 - Section 55.204- Inspection of Magazines
 - Section 55.213 -Quantity and Storage Restrictions



Deputy Administrator